

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 262035Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4303
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0657

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT MULTILATERAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE
DISCUSSIONS WITH E-9 AND SWEDISH AMBASSADORS

REF: STATE 310212 (NOTAL)

1. SINCE RECEIPT OF REFTEL AMBASSADOR HAS SOUNDED
OUT THE AMBASSADORS OF DENMARK, FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, FRANCE AND ITALY ON
PROSPECTS FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY'S MOVING
TOWARD SOME KIND OF MULTILATERAL DEMARCHE RELATING
TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA. AMBASSADOR ALSO DISCUSSED
POSSIBLE SWEDISH DEMARCHE WHEN HE SAW THAT AMBASSADOR
DECEMBER 14.

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2. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR WHO
DURING A JANUARY 19 CONVERSATION CITED RELUCTANCE TO BECOME
INVOLVED LEST TRADE RELATIONS BE DAMAGED THERE WAS A GENERAL
FEELING THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR SOME KIND OF JOINT ACTION.
THE GERMAN, DANISH AND SWEDISH AMBASSADORS WERE ESPECIALLY
BULLISH ABOUT THIS IDEA. COMMENT: A NUMBER OF THE

AMBASSADORS WITH WHOM WE TALKED, INCLUDING THE SWEDE AND THE GERMAN, HAVE ALREADY MADE VIGOROUS REPRESENTATIONS ON A BILATERAL BASIS IN BEHALF OF DISAPPEARED OR DETAINED NATIONALS. WHAT HAS GROWN IS WILLINGNESS TO TAKE THE SUBJECT OFF THIS NARROW BASE AND SIGNAL TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT DISAPPROVAL ON GENERAL HUMANITARIAN AND ETHICAL GROUNDS.

3. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH IRISH AMBASSADOR DURING CALL SHCDEDUED JANUARY 31. BELGIAN AMBASSADOR IS AWAY ON VACATION UNTIL FEBRUARY, BUT WE BELIEVE IT USEFUL TO TAKE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH HIM. OCCASION HAS NOT COME UP FOR DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE WITH BRITISH CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, BUT WE THINK THERE IS RECEPTIVITY FOR THIS IDEA AT UK EMBASSY.

4. EURGOPEAN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS (ALL OF THE NINE HAVE DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION HERE EXCEPT FOR LUXEMBOURG) MET JANUARY 25 AND 26 IN A "DRAFTING SESSION" PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITYS POLITICAL COMMITTEE GIVEN JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS BY MEANS OF THE BELGIAN EMBASSY THE BELGIANS BEING OF COURSE EC CHAIRMAN UNTIL THE FIRST OF THE YEAR. SESSIONS NOW ARE UNDER LEADERSHIP OF THE DANISH AMBASSADOR IN HIS ROLE AS COMMUNITY CHAIRMAN FOR THIS SIX MONTHS PERIOD. ACCORDING TO COLLEAGUES AT THE DANISH EMBASSY THE WORK IS MOVING SLOWLY -- SO SLOWLY THAT A FINAL PRODUCT IS NOT EXPECTED "FOR WEEKS". THAT PRODUCT WILL THEN HAVE TO

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BE TRANSMITTED TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE -- THROUGH THE DANES THIS TIME -- FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION IN COMMUNITY CAPITALS.

5. IT IS HARD TO KNOW JUST NOW -- APPARENTLY EVEN FOR WORKING SESSION PARTICIPANTS THEMSELVES-- JUST WHAT KIND OF A DRAFT WILL EMERGE. OUR BEST INFORMATION IS THAT EACH PARTICIPANT IS TAKING WITHIN THE COMMITTEE MORE OR LESS THE VIEW EXPRESSED IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR. SURPRISINGLY, FRENCH HAVE NOT, REPORTEDLY, STAKED OUT A "FORWAR POSITION" IN THESE DELIBERATIONS, DESPITE THEIR PROBLEMS WITH THE MISSING FRENCH NUNS AND THE TOUGH BILATERAL LINE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD AMBASSADOR HE WAS TAKING WITH GOA. CONSENSUS OF EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS IS THAT "SOMETHING" NEEDS TO BE DONE ON A MULTILATERAL BASIS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF COMMUNITYS HAVING MADE MONTEVIDEO DEMARCHE JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS (MONTEVIDEO 5816 AND 5811, BOTH 1977). AT THE SAME TIME IT IS FELT THAT MONTEVIDEO DEMARCHE WAS INEFFECTIVE, AND SHOULD NOT SERVE AS MODEL FOR WHAT IS TO BE DONE IN BUENOS AIRES. IN ADDITION TO CONTENT OF DEMARCHE TO BE MADE HERE, ITS METHOD OF PRESENTATION IS CURRENTLY BEING DEBATED.

6. INTERESTING TO US HAD BEEN EVIDENCE THAT DISMAY ABOUT

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS INCREASINGLY FELT BY DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS HERE. AMBASSADORS PERUVIAN COLLEAGUE TOLD HIM THAT
HIS CONCERN CAME TO A HEAD WHEN THE NIECE OF A PERUVIAN
MILITARY ATTACHE AND TWO COMPANIONS WERE ARRESTED AND ROUGHED
UP BY SECURITY FORCE MEMBERS. THE SWISS AMBASSADOR HAS ALSO
MENTIONED TO US HIS CONCERN OVER RECENT HUMAN RIGHTS EVENTS.
CASTRO

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